

THE
CURIOSITIES

OF

Common Water :

OR

The ADVANTAGES thereof
in Preventing and Curing many
DISTEMPERS.

Gather'd from the Writings of several
Eminent PHYSICIANS, and also from
more than Forty Years Experience.

By JOHN SMITH, C. M.

To which are added,
Some RULES for preserving Health by Diet.

The Second Edition, Corrected.

L O N D O N,

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FOR the Benefit of Mankind
in general, I have taken
pains to give the World an
Account of what I have
found written *in the Works of*
the most eminent Physicians,
concerning the Good that Mankind may re-
ceive from the Use of COMMON WATER,
and of the Informations I have had con-
cerning *the Benefits thereof* from others
by word of mouth; and of what I have
A 2 discover'd

discover'd by my own Experience, from frequent Tryals during a Time that hath intervened from that of *thirty to seventy four Years of Age* ; which is sufficient to confirm the stupendous Effects thereof in many Particulars, that shall be mentioned as my own Discovery with respect to this excellent Remedy, which will perform Cures with very little Trouble, and without any Charge, and is also to be had where-ever there are any Habitations, which is what can hardly be said of any other Thing : So that in some Sense, Water may truly be stiled *An Universal Remedy*, since the Diseases it either prevents or cures may have this Remedy applied to all Persons, and in all Places where Men do inhabit.

The first Commendation of Common Water that I shall mention, is that which is written concerning it by Dr. *Manwaring*, in his *Method and Means of enjoying Health* ; wherein he saith, that Water is a wholesome Drink, or rather the most wholesome——being appointed for Man in his best State ; which doth strongly argue that Drink to be the most suitable for human Nature——answering all the Intentions of common Drinks, for it cools, moistens, and quencheth Thirst ; 'tis clear, thin, and fit to convey the Nourishment

ment through the smallest Vessels of the Body—— and is a Drink that is a Rule to it self, and requires little Caution in the Use of it, *since none will be tempted to drink of it more than needs* : And that in the Primitive Ages of the World, Water-Drinkers, he says, were the longest Livers by some Hundreds of Years—— nor so often sick and complaining, as we are.

Dr. Keill, when he treats concerning the Stomach, in his *Abridgment of the Anatomy of Human Bodies*, saith, that Water seems the fittest to promote Digestion of the Food which we eat ; all spirituous Liquors having a Property by which they hurt, rather than help Digestion ; the sad Effects of which they are sensible of, *he saith*, who by a long Use thereof have lost their Appetite, hardly ever to be restored without drinking Water, *which seldom faileth of procuring a good Appetite and a strong Digestion.*

Dr. Prat, in his *Treatise of Mineral Waters*, shews it to be his Judgment, that if People would accustom themselves to drink Water, they would be more free from many Diseases ; such as Tremblings, Palsies, Apoplexies, Giddiness, Pains in the Head, Gout, Stone, Dropsy, Rheumatism,

tism, Piles, and such like : Which Diseases are most common among them that drink strong Drinks, and which Water generally would prevent. Moreover, he also saith, that Water plentifully drank strengthens the Stomach, causeth an Appetite, preserves the Sight, maketh the Senses lively, and cleanseth all the Passages of the Body, especially those of the Kidneys and Bladder.

'Tis said also by Dr. *Duncan*, in his *Treatise of hot Liquors*, that when Men contented themselves with Water, *they had more Health and Strength ; and that at this day those who drink nothing but Water, are more healthy, and live longer than those who drink strong Liquors, which raises the Heat of the Stomach to Excess, whereas Water keeps it in a due Temper.* And he adds in another Part of the Book, that by hot Liquors the Blood is inflamed ; and such whose Blood is inflamed, live not so long as those who are of a cooler Temper : *A hot Blood being commonly the Cause of Fluxes, Rheums, ill Digestion, Pains in the Limbs, Headach, Dimness of Sight, and especially of Hysteric Vapours.* He also imputes the Cause of Ulcers to a hot Blood, and declares, that if Men kept their Blood cool and sweet, *by a moderate and cooling Diet, they would*
never

never be troubled with Ulcers, or other Breakings out.

Sir John Floyer also, in the Preface to his *Treatise of Cold Baths*, does affirm, that Vapours both in Men and Women are caused by hot Things, and that *by leaving off strong Liquors and a hot Diet, and by drinking Water*, he had procured to himself a better Health, and more Hardiness, than he had enjoyed for many Years. And in the *Body of that Book* he affirmeth, that drinking of Water in the Morning, *cools the Blood, prevents Defluxions, and washes off the bilious and salt Recrements by Urine*; and that drinking Water after Dinner, *cools and stops the too high Fermentation of the Stomach*, which is the Cause of *breeding Wind, or Belching after Meat*: To the Truth of which, the Author of this Account can bear a full Testimony, who being for many Years afflicted with *this belching up of Wind after Meat*, did at length prevent the same, by drinking Water after Eating, instead of other Drink, which in time did cool that *Hypochondriac Heat*, from whence those Belchings did proceed.

Having read over an old Book written by one Sir Tho. Eliot, intituled, *The Castle*

file of Health, he there declared from his own Experience, that in the County of *Cornwall*, tho' it was a very cold Quarter, the Poorer Sort, which in his Time did never, or but very seldom drink any other Drinks but Water, were strong of Body, and lived to a very great Age; to which Relation that of Sir *Henry Blount* is very agreeable, who affirmed, in his *Book of Travels into the Levant*, (where under the *Turkish* Government the Use of Wine was forbid, *and where the common Drink is Water*) that he then had a better Stomach to his Food, and digested it more kindly than he ever did before or since.

And in the Treatise of the *Vanity of Philosophy*, written by Dr. *Gideon Harvey*, it is affirmed by him, that it is not Heat that causeth a good Digestion, *but a proper Ferment or Liquor provided by Nature*, to dissolve the Food into a Substance like unto Pap made with fine Flower; which Dissolvent, he saith, is much depraved by hot spirituous Liquors, and therefore he commends Water above all other Drinks to promote Digestion.

Water-drinking is also said by Dr. *Alzen* to be good to prevent two deplorable Distempers, *the Gout*, and *the Hypochondriac*

driac Melancholy ; for, says he, the Gout is generally caused by the too great drinking of fermented Liquors, *and is never said to have assaulted any Drinker of Water* ; and he saith also, that *Melancholy Hypochondriac is kept off longest by drinking Water instead of strong Drink*. To which let me add, that I once knew a gouty Gentleman, who, to avoid his drinking Companions in *London*, retired to *New Brentford*, where I then lived ; in which Town, by a very temperate Diet of one Meal a Day, and drinking only Water, he lived two whole Years free from Pain : but being visited by one who came that way, and invited to drink but one Bottle of Claret between them, he fell next Day into a terrible Fit of the Gout, which held above a Month after ; of which being recover'd, he by the same Course continued well till I left the Place, which was about a Year and a half after.

The good Properties of Water are further manifested in preventing *the breeding of Gravel in the Kidneys* ; for *Zechias, in Consult. 17.* as he is quoted by *Salmon*, affirms, that nothing doth so much abate the Heat of the Kidneys, and free them from those Recrements which cause Pain in the Back, *one great sign of Gravel*, as Water does : but he adviseth to drink it

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warm,

warm, by the Use of which, he saith, the unnatural Heat in time will be so extinguished, that no more of that Matter causing Gravel will be produced in the Body. Which Assertion, by Experience I have found to be true : for observing much Gravel to be voided by me, as also abundance of Matter floating in the Urine like Bran, with a great Number of Recrements like Cuttings of Hair, some above an Inch long ; *which Substances were found in all the Water I made in above twelve Months* ; for which I could get no Remedy : I was advised to drink Water, which in about half a Year did intirely free me from those Symptoms, which some out of Ignorance imputed to Witchcraft ; so that from that Time to this present I never have been troubled with it.

Water also is commended as efficacious to prevent *the breeding of the Stone in the Bladder*, for it hath been observed, that in some who have been cut for the Stone, *that new Stones have been ingender'd, so that some young Persons have been cut several Times*. Now to prevent this, the drinking Water hath been advised with Success ; for by this that intemperate Heat in the Body was abated, which did occasion the Distemper. Some have
advised

advised to drink it warm, and others cold, and in particular *Van Heydon*, a Physician of *Ghent* in *Flanders*, in his Book, entitled, *Help for the Rich and Poor*; which he saith, in p. 49. is sufficiently insinuated by *Piso* and *Alexander*, who do assure us, that the taking a Draught of cold Water in the Morning, hath done so much good, that several after the voiding of a Stone never had any more Stones grow in them.

Which Experiment may give light to the Discovery of a Way to cure the Stone without cutting; for if the growing of new Stones can be prevented by drinking Water, let it be hot or cold, *it may prevent a Stone from growing bigger when begun*; and if the adding Matter to increase a Stone new begun, can be prevented, Nature in Time may waste that which is begun, especially if some Drops of sweet Spirit of Nitre be added to all the Water drank, which will powerfully help to cool, and is known to be an admirable Mover or Provoker of Urine, *and will waste a Stone, and make it crumble like Fullers Earth, if applied to a Stone taken from the Body*. Or the Water may be sweeten'd with Honey, which is now much in Use among the Gentry, as I am informed by an ingenious Apothecary;

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who

x+ who told me, that among them at present Pump-Water and Honey was in great repute to give ease in Gravel: And there is so near an Affinity between Gravel and the Stone, that what is proper for one, will be suitable to both, and will prevent the growing of both.

x+ Water is also stiled in *Sennertus's Works* the Balsam of Children, the drinking of it by the Mother being one of those Things whereby Children may be strengthen'd in the Womb, and will prevent those Injuries that are done them by drinking strong Liquors; which *Sampson's* Mother was not allowed to do, for she was commanded *not to drink Wine or strong Drink*, Judg. 13. 4. But I will not say, if all Women should do this, their Children shall be as strong as *Sampson* was; yet this I will say, if they would do this, they would find their Children more free from Distemper and Frowardness, and so much more easy to nurse and bring up, and be less liable to an immature Death; the want of which Abstinence from strong
x Drinks is the Cause why so many rich People find it hard to bring up Children, in Comparison to what is done by the Poor: for these last are born of Mothers, who not only are prevented from being Gluttons by their want of *Dainties*,
which

which are deceitful Meat, Prov. 23. 3. but they seldom taste Wine or strong Drink ; whereas the Rich not only feed high, but they also drink strong Drinks, which in most Constitutions do over-heat and corrupt the Humours of the Body, and that Blood by which their Children are nourished during their Pregnancy. Which Injury to unborn Infants would be prevented, if the Mother would be temperate in Diet, and drink Water, especially at Meals, by which the Blood of the Mother would be kept cool and clean ; which must needs communicate a healthful Substance to the Child within her, and prevent all those Distempers which Infants do bring with them into the World.

And here it may be proper to add, *what by divers Experiments hath been found to be true*, that the drinking Water by Nurses while they give suck to Children, will wonderfully increase Milk in those that want it, *as every one will find*, who can be persuaded to make Use thereof. I have advised many to make Use of it, who have found that by drinking a large Draught of Water at Bed-time, they have been supplied with Milk sufficient for that Night, when before they wanted it, and could not be supplied by any other Means: And besides,

besides, they who have found their Children restless by reason of too much Heat in their Milk, do find them much more quiet after their Milk is cooled by Water-drinking.

By drinking Water also, *the Want of Food for a Time may be suffered without starving* ; for I have been informed by a credible Friend, who was an Officer at Sea, that being sent down to *Stafford* to take Care to see some Men conveyed on Ship-board, that had been press'd by Act of Parliament for the Sea-Service ; he found in the Prison, *where they were kept*, a lusty Fellow, who had declared *he would starve himself rather than go to Sea*, and taking particular Notice thereof, he found upon due Enquiry, that for twenty Days he had refused to eat any Manner of Food, *only he drank each Day about three Pints or two Quarts of Water*, hoping thereby to get himself discharged : But when he found his Pretensions to be in vain, and that in about two Days they should all march for *London*, he condescended to eat some Food, *beginning with a little*, and in the March he was observed to travel as well as the best Man. I find also an Account in Dr. Car's Letters, of a certain crack-brain'd Man, who, at *Leyden*, when the Doctor resided in that University, *pretended*

tended he could fast as long as Christ did; and it was found that he held out the Time of forty Days without eating any Food, only he drank Water and smook'd Tobacco. And I once had a sad Complaint from a poor old Woman of the Greatness of her Want, affirming that oftentimes she had not eaten any Food for two or three Days; upon which I asked her, if she did not then suffer much Uneasiness in her Stomach; she said she did, but found a Way at last to assuage her Hunger, by drinking Water, which did satisfy her Appetite.

Water is also of great Use to strengthen weak Children, for we are informed by Dr. Joseph Browne, in his Treatise of Cures performed by Cold Baths, that the Welsh Women do preserve their Children from the Rickets, by washing them Night and Morning in cold Water, till they are three Quarters of a Year old, p. 79. And 'tis said by Sir John Floyer in his Treatise of Cold Baths, that a Lady in Scotland, who had lost several Children through Weakness, did by the Advice of a Highland Beggar-Woman, preserve those she had afterwards, by washing them daily in cold Water. And I myself did advise a Neighbour, whose Child

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began to be *ricketty*, to treat the Child in the same manner ; but she, instead of washing, dipt it over Head and Ears every Morning, *it being then in the Summer-time* : The Event of which was, the Child became strong, and had a good Countenance, tho' before it was in the Face very pale and wan. Which shews how great the Power of Water is, when used outwardly, to invigorate the Spirits, and strengthen Nature.

It is also a known Custom, *to prevent the Swellings* that follow *Bruises in the Faces of Children*, by immediately applying thereunto a Linnen Cloth four or six Times double, dipt in cold Water, *and new dipping it as it begins to grow warm* ; for the Cold repels or prevents the flowing of Humours to the Part, which otherwise would cause great Swelling, and after turn blackish : And if upon neglecting to do so, a Swelling should succeed, it may be discussed by fomenting Night and Morning, for an Hour at a Time, with Water as hot as can be endured ; for that will give Vent to the Humours to transpire through the Skin, or dissolve them, so as to make them capable of returning back.

Moreover,

Moreover, by means of Water all Sickness at the Stomach may be cured, which is done thus: Take four Quarts of Water, make it as hot over the Fire as you can drink it; of which Water let a Quart be taken down at several Draughts; *then wrap a Rag round a small Piece of a Stick, till it is about the Bigness of a Man's Thumb*, tie it fast with some Thread; and with this, by endeavouring gently to put it a little way down your Throat, provoke yourself to vomit up again most of the Water; then drink another Quart, and vomit up that, and repeat the same the third and fourth Time. You may also provoke Vomiting by tickling your Throat with your Finger, or the Feather-End of a Goose-Quill; *but the Cloth round a Skuer maketh one vomit with most ease*, which is done with no Trouble when the Stomach is full. And by this Way of Vomiting, *which will be all performed in an Hour's Time*, that vitious and ropy Phlegm in the Stomach, which causeth the Sickness, will be cast up, so that the Party in that Time will be free from all that inward Disturbance, *if you use the Remedy at the first*; but if the Sickness hath continued for a Time, it will require the same Course *once or twice more*, which may be done in three

or four Hours, one after another, without any other Inconvenience, *besides that of being a little sore in the Breast the next Day, which will soon go off by the Force of Nature.* Which Remedy, by forty Years Experience, I look upon to be infallible in all Sickness at the Stomach from what Cause soever, and for all Pains in the Belly which seem to be above the Navel; for these are all in the Stomach, as by long Experience I have found: which Pains are generally counted the Cholick; but it is not so, for true Cholicks are always below the Navel, in the Gut, Colon. And by this means I have eased very great Pains caused by eating *Mussels that were poisonous*; and it is also a certain Cure for all Surfeits or Disorders that follow after much eating; so that the Lives of Multitudes might be saved by this means, who for want of expelling what offends, do often die in Misery: For by thus cleansing the Stomach at the first, the Root of Diseases proceeding from Surfeiting, or unwholesome Food, or any viscous Humours from a bad Digestion, are prevented; the Stomach being the Place in which all Distempers do at first begin. No Man was more subject to Sickness than my self before thirty Years of Age; but since I found out the Way of Vomiting with Water,

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which is now above forty Years, I never have been sick for two Days together: For when I find my self ill to any great Degree, I betake my self to this Way of Vomiting, which in an Hour's Time restores me to Ease, and perfectly removes my Illness; and the same Benefit all my Family find in it, as do others also whom I can persuade to try the Experiment; which is such, that no Physician whatever can advise a better to the King himself, should he fall sick. For, in the first Place, 'tis not a nauseous Remedy, it does not make the Patient sick, as the best of all other Vomits do; and then 'tis a Vomit which is at our own Command, since we can leave off when we please: and it infallibly works a Cure to all sick Stomachs. 55

Some few indeed pretend they are not able to vomit by this Means; now if they cannot vomit, let them take a Pint of Water when they find themselves ill from eating, and do so every three or four Hours, *eating no more till they are hungry*; and they will find the Water digest and carry off what was offensive. The ingenious Dr. Cheyne, in his *Treatise of the Gout*, doth affirm that warm Water drank freely in a Morning fasting, and at Meals, (and I say cold Water is as good)

good) hath been a sovereign Remedy for restoring lost *Appetites*, and strengthening weak *Digestions*, when other more pompous Medicines have failed. And he adviseth Gouty Persons, after Excess either in Meat or Drink, to swallow down as much fair Water as their Stomach will bear, before they go to bed, whereby they will reap these Advantages, either the Contents of the Stomach will be thrown up, or both Meat and Drink will be much diluted, and the Labour and Expence of Spirits in Digestion much saved. And indeed I have found by long Experience, that nothing causeth so good a Digestion as fair Water; but this requires Time to free us from the Uneasiness that an ill Digestion causeth, whereas Vomiting is an immediate Remedy, and frees a Man from it upon the spot.

We are told by Sir John Floyer, in his *Treatise of Bath and Mineral Springs*, that Vomiting with Water is very useful in the Gout, Sciatica, Wind, Shortness of Breath, Hypochondriac Melancholy, and Falling-Sickness; which Distempers are generally derived from evil Matter contained in the Stomach, as is likewise Giddiness in the Head and Apoplexies, with which my self once seemed to be threatened; for after eating a plentiful Dinner,

I was seized with Giddiness, and the Sight of my Eyes became so depraved, that Things seemed double, which was accompanied with a strange Consternation of Spirit ; and having read, *that Apoplexies generally seize after Eating*, I immediately called for Water, and not daring to stay till it was warmed, I drank it cold, and by the Help of my Finger provoked Vomiting : Upon which I did immediately overcome the Evils *I was threatned with*, the Symptoms before mentioned being the same *as did precede the Fit of an Apoplexy in another Person*, as himself afterwards told me, who died of it the third Fit, about a Year after.

As for People who are troubled with *Shortness of Breath*, 'tis certain from Experience, that Vomiting with warm Water three or four Times will afford certain Relief. *And the same may be prevented by drinking nothing but Water afterwards*, either cold, or warmed with a Toast : For upon doing this, the Difficulty of Breathing will apparently abate ; which Water, if you please, may be boiled with Honey. And I knew one, who by this Means, *as he was advised by me*, lived comfortably in this City two or three Winters, but having undertaken Business which did occasion

caſion drinking ſtrong Drinks, was the next Winter carried off by the Diſtemper: *Wine, Ale, or Brandy*, being as bad as Poſſon to People troubled with Shortneſs of Breath.

Some People are taken with *violent Vomiting*, and the Exceſs thereof in ſome hath been ſo great, as to endanger their Lives, yea, *cauſe Death*: In which Caſe Water will be very helpful; for if a Pint of it warmed be drank after every Vomit, *it will prevent that violent Straining, wherein lieth the Danger of all Vomiting*, becauſe to ſtrain violently when but little will come up, *does endanger the Breaking of ſome inward Veſſel*. And beſides this, the offending Matter will be ſooner looſen'd from the internal Part of that Bowel, *the Stomach*, and caſt out, upon which the Vomiting will ſooner ceaſe: For after this Manner the famous *Sydenham*, a moſt honeſt Writer, did overcome the *Cholera Morbus*, or Vomiting and Looleſneſs, ſo common in his Time, and was found by the weekly Bill *to kill more than now die of Convulſions*; for his Way was to boil a Chicken in four Gallons of Water, which made a Broth not much differing from Water, of which he order'd large Draughts to be given, and ſome of it to be taken by Clyſter, till the whole Quantity was ſpent,

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if the Vomiting did not stop before; which did so take off the Sharpness of the Matter offending, and wash it out, that the Party in a little Time became well. And the same was the Practice of *Sigismundus Grad-sius*, who commends pure Water in a Vomiting and Looseness *to be drank in large Quantities*; for thereby, he saith, the corrosive or sharp Humours will be so weaken'd, that they will no more offend: And he saith, it may be drank cold, if the Patient be strong, otherwise let it be warmed. ⁵⁶

And in *Common Fluxes* without Vomiting, a Quart or more of warm Water drank, will so weaken the Sharpness whereby the Distemper is caused, that it will soon be overcome, and the Gripings eased; and in the *Bloody Flux*, which is the most dangerous of all Fluxes, the ingenious *Cornelius Celsus* adviseth a large Drinking of cold Water as the best of Remedies: *But then no other Substance must be taken till the Disease is cured.* And another great Physician, by Name *Lusitanus*, affirms, *Cent. 1. Obser. 46.* that he knew one, who, being in the Summer-time afflicted with this bloody Flux, did drink a large Quantity of cold Water, and did thereby recover. This large Quantity therefore

therefore of Water in these Fluxes, doth so correct the Sharpness of the Humour offending, that it can have no Power to cause Pain, or corrode the Vessels, and cause bloody Digestions or Stools.

Water also is a Drink that conduceth above all Things to cure *Consumptive People*, for the Digestion being weaken'd, is the Cause of producing a hot, fretting Nourishment ; which is injurious to the tender Substance of the Lungs, and which constricts and stops up the Lymphatic Vessels, thro' which the Nourishment is to pass to all the Parts ; so that by Degrees *the Body for Want of due Supplies consumes* : Which Obstructions, and that Acrimony that causeth them, will be open'd and sweeten'd by the plentiful Use of Water, *if taken before the Lungs become ulcerous*. Which Cure of Consumptions by Water is recommended in the Writings of Dr. Cough, who in his *Praxis Catholica* tells us, *that he knew a Man cured very soon of a Consumption by drinking pure Water*. And 'tis said by another, that some have been cured of *Consumptions* by drinking no other Drink but Water, *avoiding all Malt Liquors and sharp Wines* : For Wine or any other strong Liquor is pernicious in this Distemper.

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Some there are who are much troubled with *flushing Heat* in their Face, and others with a *Heat in the Back*; in both which Cases, Water used as common Drink, is the best Remedy, with a *spare cooling Diet*: And 'tis also excellent for such as have *Red Blotches in their Face*, which proceeds from a hot fretting Blood, which by Water-drinking, and a moderate Diet, will be kept under: For as Dr. *Duncan*, before quoted, doth affirm, *Those who keep their Blood cool and clean, are never troubled with Breakings out*, like many others, who may be known to be Drinkers of hot Drinks, and use a hot full Diet, by their Faces being full of Blotches.

Water is also commended by the Learned for the *Cholick*; thus *Riverius* affirms, That in the *Cholick* large Drinking of Water hath been found to be an excellent Remedy: And 'tis said by *Fortis*, that when he Practised at *Venice*, he often gave cold Water in the *Cholick* with good Success. With whom an *English Physician*, Dr. *Wainwright*, in his *Mechanical Account of the Six Non-naturals*, concurs; for he saith, *That Water-Drinkers are never troubled with the Cholick*, and that many thereby have been cured when all other Remedies failed.

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And in the *Small-Pox*, Water hath also been proved to be an excellent Drink. *Salmon*, in his *Synopsis Medicinæ*, saith, That in this Distemper you may safely give the Sick fair Water, of which, *says he*, they may drink liberally to quench Thirst; *the Want of which Plenty of Drink hath been the Death of many a Patient.* Which Opinion of his was right, as by Experience I have found in Two of my own Children, when sick of this Distemper; to whom, after I had given a gentle Vomit of *Emetick Tartar*, I gave no other Drink but Water, and they both recovered safely, and were not in the least Light-headed, as Two others before were in the same Distemper, when treated otherwise: And I remember that one Dr. *Betts* being consulted in a Case where the Erruption did not come out kindly, did order *Two Quarts of cold Water* to be drank as soon as could be; upon which they came out according to Expectation, and the Party did well.

'Tis also certain, that in what we call *Burning Fevers*, Water is found to be a safe and effectual Remedy. It is said by Dr. *Primrose*, in his *Popular Errors*, That many great Physicians have commended
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the Drinking cold Water in Diseases, and they attribute to it the chief Place in Fevers, where the Sick must drink largely; for thus taken, it will quench all Heat, pag. 374. And Galen is said by an English Author, to reprove Crasistratus for denying cold Water in Burning Fevers; and says, That this is a Remedy for any Fever, provided it be drank in great Abundance. With which Opinion I find Dr. Oliver to agree, who, in his Essay on Fevers, says, That in Fevers we must drink oftner than Thirst calls for it, and such Draughts as are plentiful; and the Drink he prescribes, is either cold Water or Barley-Water. Dr. Wainwright affirms also, That Water is proper in Fevers, and that the Ancients gave as much of it as the Patient could drink. And by another 'tis said, That if you give the Patient nothing but Water for Three Days, that in the third Day the Fever will be cured generally; but if it is not, give for Food a little Barley-Broth, and the Fever will not exceed the seventh Day. And by another we are informed, how one in a Fever, that was past Hope, being forbidden to drink Water, which he greatly desired, did find Means, in the Absence of his Nurse, to get a large Pot-full, which he drank off, and lay down again, being well cooled; after which he

fell into a Sweat, and so was cured. And
 I find that Dr. Cook of *Warwick* in his *Book*
 of *Observations on English Bodies*, does pre-
 scribe, for the Cure of Fevers, first, a Vo-
 mit, and afterwards as much cold Water as
 the Patient can drink; and he saith, That if
 he Sweat upon it; the Sweat must be con-
 tinued as long as can be. And 'tis said by
 another, That 'tis an excellent Remedy
 in Fevers to drink a Quart of hot Water, and
 Sweat upon it, being covered warm. There is
 also one Dr. Quinton, who, in his *Book of*
Observations, writes, That to one in a ma-
 lignant Fever, whose Pulse was so low it
 could scarcely be felt, there was three
 Quarts of Water given, at several Draughts,
 to make him Vomit; but it did not ope-
 rate that Way, yet the Event was this;
 That it did refresh him, much raised his Pulse,
 brought him into a breathing Sweat, and passed
 off by Urine: Which Lowness of the Pulse
 my own Experience hath often found to
 be raised by drinking Water plentifully.
 And I know a Woman, who, tho' she in
 a Fever had the Advice of two Doctors,
 yet became distracted: I bid the Nurse
 give her a Pint of cold Water, which she
 drank up, and in three or four Minutes came
 to her right Senses; and desiring to drink more,
 she recovered. And I have observed, that
 when, in Fevers, the Patient can relish no
 other

other Drink, yet, *Water is always drank with Pleasure*, as it also will always be after the eating sweet Things, that spoil the Relish of other Drinks; which is one Excellence peculiar to Water, and shews it to be most agreeable to the Nature of Mankind, tho' now so much slighted. And besides this it is a Drink that will not turn soure in the Stomach as all fermented Drinks will do to the Increase of Distempers already begun there.

And as for the Gout, which Dr. *Harris* saith, in his *Anti-Empiric*, is gotten either by high feeding, or drinking much Wine, or other strong Drink; it may be cured, as that Author doth affirm, by a very spare Diet, and drinking Water: According to what is said also by Sir *Theodore Mayhern*, who, in his *Medicinal Counsels*, adviseth to leave off all strong Drinks in this Disease, and drink only Water. And *Van Heydon* saith also, in his *Treatise of Help for the Rich and Poor*, that there is not any greater Remedy for the Gout than drinking Water, not only by young, but old Men; many of whom, he saith, have drank cold Water for many Weeks, which hath succeeded so well, though they were far gone in Years, that they found great Ease thereby, without that Offence to the Stomach, or Hindrance of Digestion,

on, which some did seem to fear. And he also commends the large drinking of Water in the *Sciatica* or *Hip-Gout*, he having often cured this Distemper, by this Means, in less Time than could reasonably be expected; and the same myself have found to be effectual in a Pain in the Shoulder, which had continued very bad for three Months. For, being taken with a Fever, I drank in one Day about four Quarts of Water; which though it did not make me Sweat, *because I lay not in my Bed*, yet it cured me so that I slept well that Night; and in the Morning when I rose, I did find that the Pain in my Shoulder was not felt, *neither did it ever return*. And the same Success I have had in the Pains of other Parts, whereby I judge, that in all *Pains whatever*, the drinking of Water is proper, as well as in the Gout; and accordingly I find cold Water advised to be drank largely for the Cure of the *Head-ach* from hard Drinking; that Pain Proceeding from the same Cause the Gout does, namely, from Heat, *as all Pains do*, that are not from Bruises.

It is said also by Dr. *Wainwright*, That in the *Itch*, *Scurvy*, *Leprosy*, and in all hot *inflammatory Distempers*, such as *Pleurisies*, *Rheumatisms*, and *St. Anthony's Fire*, Water is a proper Remedy; but he adviseth to drink

drink it hot in some Cases, as doubtless ought to be done in *Pleurisies*. He also saith, That Water is proper in *Head aches, Catarrhs, Vapours, Falling-Sickness, Dullness of Sight, Melancholy, Shortness of Breath, Scurvy in the Mouth, and Windiness in the Stomach* : And, for Wind in the Stomach, I, by long Experience, have found it the best Remedy, who, in the former Part of my Life *through a disorderly Diet, and drinking strong Drink like others*, was never free from *windy Belchings*, and sometimes very sickish Qualms after Meals; from which at length I was delivered, *by drinking only Water at Meals*, so that for above Forty Years I have been seldom troubled: And if I find myself troubled, a Pint or more of cold Water, in less than half an Hour, will set me free, by drinking of it.

And that Water is the best Remedy for the Mischiefs that come by *hard Drinking*, Experience teacheth; there being nothing that so effectually frees from *those nauseating and reaching Qualms the next Morning*, as the drinking a Pint or more of fair Water; which effectually allays the Inflammation of the Bowels, occasioned by strong or hot Drink, which spoils the Strength of the Stomach, as it doth the Strength of all other Parts; nothing being a greater Enemy to the Vi-
gour

gour of the Nerves and Sinews, *since by much Drinking, Men make themselves unable to stand or go*: Which Effect would never follow, if Liquors that abound with Spirits, *were strengthening*; and if they were strengthening, the Fibres of the Stomach would not be so weakened after drinking strong Drinks, as to make Men sick; which Sickness will soon be recovered by the drinking cold Water, this being also the best Remedy, if taken largely, for that

+ *Heat of Urine* which is often occasioned by Hard-drinking.

x + In Colds, Water is the best of all Drinks to prevent Floods of Rheum from the Nose and Mouth, as my long Experience testifies, and the drinking therefore will prevent Coughs; for a Cough will seldom succeed a Cold, *if Water is used from the first as common Drink*: And if, through Neglect, a Cough should become troublesome, the Use of Water, *avoiding all Wine and strong Drink*, will contribute much to the Cure. Some order the Water to be drank warm, but others say, *That the drinking it cold vastly excells the using of it hot in a Cough*. 'Tis said by Van Heydon, That some may think it strange to advise Water in such Diseases, which most do account to proceed from Crudity or Indigestion; but, he says, That

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in any Disease where the Case is dangerous, *the Use of Water is the only Friend to Nature*; cold Water being a Preventor rather than a Cause of Crudity, since, by all Experience, it is proved to be a Promoter of a good Digestion: And at this Time I know a Woman, Seventy-eight Years of Age, who for this Ten Years past hath had great Cough, and spit much tough Phlegm, that this present Winter 1722, hath been persuaded to leave off all strong and small fermented Liquor, and drink only Water at Meals, and sometimes a Dish or two of Tea; and hath found herself much less subject to Cough than before, and scarce Coughs at all in Bed, tho' subject before to Cough very much in the Night; she also drinks at Bed-time half a Pint of cold Water, and the same Quantity first in the Morning.

It is the general Opinion of most Physicians, *That Wine and Strong-Drinks are not proper for Children*, and that the smaller and cooler their Drink is, the better it will be with them; and that nothing conduceth more to the Health of Children than drinking Water, which will prevent the Foundation of those Diseases that are caused in many by Strong-Drink, and do shew themselves in their more advanced Age, wherein many also do suffer much by the

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Mother's ill Custom of making them Gluttons, by constantly cramming their Stomachs with Food, many being thereby destroyed among the Children of the Rich before they come to Years of Maturity; when the Children of poor Country People, who fare hard, stand their Ground till full grown: For fewer Children die in the Country than in great Cities, where Luxury in Diet doth more abound; which is one Reason *why so few Housekeepers in London were born in it*, the great Supply of Inhabitants being from the Country, Children being brought up more hardy there than in *London*, where great Numbers are killed *by over-pleasing their Palates*. Which Mischief would be in a great Measure prevented by their being accustomed to eat less, and drink Water; which, by Experience, is found to make young Children free from that Frowardness which is commonly caused by a sharp, and hot, or feverish Blood, *which ingendereth Wind, and causeth Pain and Gripes*: For there is no Pain but is the Consequence of Heat, if it is not caused by Blows and Bruises.

Water, I have found, by long Experience, to be of excellent Use *in Burns and Scalds*; for in all Burns and Scalds that are slight, if the Part is plunged immediately into cold water, *the colder the better*, the

Pain

Pain will instantly be taken off; and it will fetch out the Fire, if continued so long, *as will be required to do it by any other Remedy.* And if the Burn be so considerable, that other Remedies must be applied, none of which will take off the Smart of themselves *in less than two or three Hours*; yet if you apply cold Water presently, after other Applications are made to the Part, *the Pain immediately will cease*, till the Remedy becomes effectual: So that the Ease Water will give in such Cases, makes it of good Use. Which Remedy, *as it hath not been discovered till now*, appears to transcend all other Remedies in this Case, because, in a Moment, the great Smart will be eased, if the Water is cold, and will be felt no more if the Part afflicted be kept immersed in it till the Fire is extinguished, either by the Water, or the Medicine applied. *Besides, it is a Remedy every-where ready at hand*, which cannot be said of any other; which generally requires so much Time to get it ready, that much Pain will be endured, if Blisters do not arise, which do much increase the Trouble. *If the Part burnt, or scalded, cannot be dip'd in Water*, you may apply Water to it, with double Linnen Cloths dipped therein, *and new dipped as they grow warm*; by which Means I have cured Burns and Scalds in the Face without bli-

stering, when applied immediately before Blisters did arise.

I once knew a large Ulcer in the Foot, made by the running of melted Brass into the Shoe, that was kept in hand by a Surgeon nine Weeks, without any Probability of healing, *because of the great Inflammation that attended it*; but the Party being a Lover of Angling, was persuaded to go with some others to *Hackney River*: some of them went barelegg'd into the Water, to come at a certain Hole where much Fish was sometimes found. The Sport was so good that the lame Man, having pulled off his Stockings and Plaisters, went in also, *where he staid above two Hours*, and coming out again he found the Ulcer, which appeared very red and angry when he went in, did look pale; *he put on his Dressings*, and came home, and in less than a Fortnight his Ulcer healed up: which doubtless was occasioned *by the abating of the Inflammation by the Coldness of the Water*. And I have had an Account also from an Acquaintance, that was Surgeon to a Merchant Ship, that their Gunner, at a time when the Captain treated some Friends on board, going to charge a Gun that just before had been fired off, the Cartridge he was ramming down took fire, where-

whereby he was blown into the Water, and had some of his Fingers torn off, and it was about an Hour before a Boat could be got to take him up: but they found that the Coldness of the Water had almost stopt the Bleeding, and the Cure was effected so speedily, that other Surgeons wondered at it; which he imputed to the Water, *which kept back the Humours, by its Coldness, from flowing to the Part at the first*: So that there was no Impediment, from Inflammation, to hinder healing; for the chief Impediment to healing, is Inflammation in Wounds or Ulcers.

And as for *Strains and Sprains* in the Joints, cold Water affords the best and most speedy Remedy, as *Van Heydon* affirms; who saith, That by bathing in cold Water all harm so received may, by this Remedy, be cured more safely and more speedily than by any other, without Loss of Time, Cost, or Trouble; for no more is to be done, as I have often found, than, as soon as can be, *to put the Part into a Tub of cold Water for about two Hours*, which will prevent all Swelling and Pain, *by repelling or keeping back the Humours that otherwise would flow from the Part*. And if it should be the Shoulder, or any other Part, which is so hurt, that cannot well be immersed in Water after this manner,

manner, Water may be applied, by dipping Towels folded up into it, and laying them to the Part, as is done, in effect, to the wrenched Joints of Horses, about which, if you wind oftentimes a thick Rope made of Hay, and then cast upon it divers times a Pail of cold Water, the Wrench will be cured; which Experiment is now commonly practised by those concerned about Horses.

Bathing in cold Water hath also been found to be a good Remedy to *strengthen Weakness in the Joints*, as Sir John Floyer, in his Treatise of *Cold Bathing*, hath shewed; and which by Experience I found to be true in a certain Women, who complained of great Weakness and Pain in her Ancles: I advised her to dip the Part in cold Water every Morning for a quarter of an Hour, and to do the same at Night; and in about twenty Days she became as strong in that Part as she was in the other. And Sir John tells us of a Boy who could not stand, his Limbs were so weak, that by bathing in cold Water, perfectly recover'd his Strength in a little time.

Great Pain in the Head hath been also cured by this means; for we are told by Van Heydon, that one Sir Toby Matthews had

had for twenty Years been troubled with great Pain in one side of his Head, and a great Defluxion of Rheum from his Nose; but he at last was cured, by applying cold Water to the Part every Day for about a Quarter of an Hour: *Upon reading of which, I tried the Experiment upon myself*, who for a long Time had been troubled with the running of much clear Water from my Nose, with great spitting of thin Rheum: *for I let a Water-Cock run upon the Mould of my Head every Morning*, by which, in about six Weeks Time, I was eased of my Trouble. And since that I had a credible Information of a certain Servant-Maid, who was afflicted greatly with a *Rheumatism* and an intolerable *Pain in the Head*, who being put into *St. Thomas's Hospital*, her Nurse was order'd by the Doctor to apply to her Head Towels four Times double, dip'd in cold Water, changing them as they became warm, which she was to continue doing Four or Five Hours; in which Time she was freed from that Pain in the Head, and was afterwards cured of the *Rheumatism* by other Means.

The *Want of Sleep in Fevers* may be cured likewise by the Application of cold Water: For to a near Relation, who could not sleep for three Days and three Nights,

I ordered a Towel to be several Times folded up, then to be dipped in Water, and a little wrung-out, *and so laid upon her Forehead, and to be new dipped as it grew hot*; which in about two Hours time so cooled her Head, that she fell into a Sleep, and continued in it five Hours: And I order'd the same to be done the next Night, with the same Effect. And we find that Dr. Cockburn, in his Treatise of *Sea Diseases*, did order for the Want of Sleep in Fevers, to dip a Towel, four times doubled in *Oxycrat*, which is six Parts Water, and one Part Vinegar, to be bound about the Head and Temples; which, he saith will cause Sleep with wonderful Success. But cold Water only will have the same Effect, as I often have proved.

And that the Use of cold Water in *Swoonings*, is of great Effect, common Experience teacheth; for, *if a Dish or Cup of cold Water is thrown strongly upon the Face*, the Person in an Instant will recover his Senses, tho' for a Time he seemeth dead, and perhaps might not have recovered in some Cases, if cold Water had not been so applied; such Faintings being sometimes deadly, which proceed from poysonous Vapours ascending up to the Brain from a foul Stomach; for such Effects there are, as I have found by Experience, who,

who, in my young Days, did swoon away twice ; *at both which times I was sensible of a Collection of Wind in my Stomach,* from whence I plainly felt a Fume or Vapour ascend to the Head, *that in an instant deprived me of all Sense :* but being both times in the Company of a Person who had seen the thing tried, he dash'd some cold Water against my Face, *which I remember made me start, as if I had been suddenly awaked.* And I am apt to think, that some die in such a Fit, when none are near to help them ; and especially when so taken in their Sleep, which, I believe, none need fear who live temperately, or that eat no Suppers: none who have refrained from Suppers, having been ever found to die in Sleep.

Dangerous *Bleedings at the Nose* have also been cured with cold Water largely drank, syringing cold Water up their Nostrils, and applying Towels round their Necks dipt in cold Water, changing them as they grow warm ; for 'tis said by a good Writer, that this will so cool the Heat of the Blood, and by the Coldness of the Water syringed up the Nose, so contract the Mouths of the Veins which bleed, that it will put a stop to the Bleeding. Such Bleedings have also been stopt by *dashing cold Water often into the Face,*

as a *French* Writer hath affirmed, whose Name was *Flamand* ; and the same also is affirmed by *Cook*, in his *Marrow of Surgery*.

Cold Water is an absolute Cure for all *small Cuts in the Fingers, or other Parts* ; for if when cut, you close the Cut up with the Thumb of your other Hand, keeping it so closed for a quarter or half an Hour, this will infallibly stop the Bleeding : after which, if you double up a Linnen Rag five or six times, dip it in cold Water, and apply it to the Part, binding it on fast. This, by preventing Inflammation and a Flux of Humours, will give Nature time soon to heal it without any other Application, as is seen in the common Practice of Surgeons when they let a Man blood ; for all the Application they make to the Vein so cut, is a Pledget of Linnen dipt in cold Water, and bound on with a Fillet : for all Wounds without loss of Substance will heal of themselves, if Inflammation is prevented, and the Lips of the Wound are kept close together.

We also are told by *Van Heydon*, that in his time some were of an opinion, that a Person bit by a *mad Dog* might be preserved from that Symptom, call'd, *The Fear of Water*, which generally follows and

and proves so mortal, by applying cold Water to the Place bitten: And this, he says, they conceive to be no unlikely thing, if there is any credit to be given to what *Cornelius Celsus* writes, who saith, that the only Remedy in this case is to throw the Party who is in this Condition, or hath *the Fear of Water* upon him, into a Pond or River, and when plunged over Head and Ears, *to keep him in the Water till filled with it, whether he will or no*; and by this means both his Thirst and Dread of Water will be cured. For if this Immersion be of use when the Party is so far gone, why should it not be of greater force in preserving from it, if speedily applied and repeated? Now tho' this is mention'd by him as a probable Opinion, yet Experience in our days shews, *That the plunging the Patient into the salt Water either of the River of Thames, about Gravesend, or in the salt Springs in Cheshire, is an infallible means to prevent any Evil succeeding the Bite of a mad Dog; they must indeed be dipt so often, as to be almost drown'd before the Danger is over*; but 'tis a question whether the Saltness of the Water contributes any thing to this Cure, since *Boerhaave*, the present Professor at *Leyden*, affirms, *That when Men bitten by a mad Dog are arrived to the Fear of Water, call'd an*

Hydrophobia, they may be cured, by *blinding the Patient's Eyes*, and *throwing of him into a Pond of Water often*, till he seems not to be afraid of it, or but very little, and then force him to drink large Quantities.

And we are told by Dr. *Browne*, that a Person troubled with the *Falling Sickness*, by happening to fall into a cold Spring, (*I suppose it was in the time of his Fit*) was freed from his Distemper all his Life after : and he saith there is no need of preparing the Body for it in this, as in some other Cases. But the Patient, when plunged into a cold Bath, ought to continue in the Bath each time about three or four Minutes : for in plunging over head and ears at his first Entrance into a cold Bath, the Brain will be so sensibly affected, as to be relieved from the Distemper, which is a kind of Convulsion proceeding from an Inflammation, or some other Cause ; *but we want more Experiments to confirm this Notion* : Which Notion may be worth noting, that the thing may be tried in others, to see whether it will succeed as it did in this Person. For 'tis said by the ingenious Dr. *Pitcairn*, a Scotchman, some time Professor at *Leyden*, that there is no such thing as the Art of Physick, but Remedies were

were found out by chance, p. 264. of his Works ; for when Remedies happen to be discover'd, and prove often to be effectual, the remembring that Remedy, to apply it in a like case, often brings Reputation to the Prescriber ; and if it fails, some other Experiment must be tried, which, were Physick an Art, need not be done, because the Rules of Art are certain.

'Tis also said by the same Dr. *Browne*, that *Madness* and *Melancholy*, with all their Retinue, may find better Effects from the Use of bathing in cold Water, than from other violent Methods, with which People so afflicted are now treated ; for, says he, *that which will make a drunken Man sober in a minute, will certainly go a great way towards the Cure of a Madman in a month.* Now 'tis most certain, to my own Knowledge, *that if a drunken Man be plunged over head and ears in cold Water, he will come out of it perfectly sober :* And some I have known, that in such cases have been recover'd by barely washing their Heads in cold Water. And the forementioned Opinion of Dr. *Browne* is confirmed by the Practice of Dr. *Blair*, who, in a Letter to Dr. *Baynard*, declares, That he cured a Man *raving mad*, who being bound in a Cart, stript of his Clothes, and blind-folded,

folded, that the Surprize might be the greater ; he on a sudden had a great Fall of Water let down upon him from the height of twenty foot, *under which he continued so long as his Strength would permit* : and after his Return home, he fell into a Sleep, and slept twenty-nine Hours, and awaked in as quiet a State of Mind as ever, and so had continued to the time of the writing that Letter, which was twelve Months.

Which Relation seems to make that a more probable Truth, which was related in a Letter from Sir *John Floyer* to Dr. *Browne*, and printed by that Doctor ; wherein it is said, that in *Normandy* they *immerse Fools, or dip them in cold Water, to cure them* : a hot Brain being the Cause, perhaps, of several Disorders in the Understanding, and is in great part found to be true, in the ridiculous Behaviour of some drunken Men, which, when their Heads are become cool, *abhor what they before did do or say*. Now if such Dipping would cure Fools among us, great Numbers might be made more happy than they are by being so dipt.

Dr. *Browne*, in his Discourse of *Cold Baths*, affirms likewise, that to bathe in cold Water hath been found to be the quickest,

quickest, safest and pleasantest Cure for *the King's Evil*; and he tells us, in p. 85. of a *Yorkshire Gentleman*, who was grievously afflicted with this Distemper, having great Ulcers in the Glands of his Neck, which were so much inflamed, as to bring him very low; but being advised by Dr. *Baynard* to bathe in the Cold Bath, he in a Month's time was perfectly cured, *his Ulcers being healed up, contrary to the Opinion of the most learned Physicians.* ++

We also find mention, in the Description of the *Scottish Islands*, of an odd Remedy commonly made use of there for the Cure of the *Faundice*; which is this: They strip the Party naked, lay him upon the Ground on his Belly, *and pour unawares upon his Back a Pail of cold Water.* And also *Pains in the Joints*, as Dr. *Curtis* tells us, will be cured, by holding the Part under the Stream of a Pump or Cock; and fomenting with cold Water is commended as good to assuage *hot Swellings*. And I know a Person who had often been subject to *blood-shot or inflamed Eyes*, who afterwards, upon the beginning of the same Distemper, took, by Advice, a Ball of linnen Rags, dipt them in cold Water, and applied them to the Part, *cooling them by new dipping as oft*
as

as they grew hot : which Application was continued three Hours, in which time the Humour was so repelled, as to be troublesome no more ; for the Party, to my knowledge, hath had no sign of that Distemper since, tho' the same had been very troublesome many times before.

It is also advised by Dr. *Gideon Harvey*, to wash the Eyes well twice a day in cold Water, as the best Remedy *to prevent Defluxions on them, and preserve the Eye-sight, which it greatly comforts*. And this I have found true for many Years, my Eyes being often apt to be dim and stiff, so that I could scarce open my Eyelids ; which, upon washing for a minute with fair Water, hath been felt no more till a good while after. Besides which Benefit to the Eyes, Authors say it is also good to *preserve the Memory*, if the whole Forehead be washed twice a day ; which also is a certain Cure for itching in the Eyes, as Authors tell us.

Some People are troubled with a *Callosity, or Hardness of the Bottoms of their Feet*, which is so troublesome, as to be a hindrance to their easy walking ; for which a Cure is prescribed by Dr. *Cook*, that is, *to soak them well in warm Water,*
till

till the Hardness is soften'd, and then scrape it off with the Edge of a Knife: and if the Feet burn with any unnatural Heat, the bathing often in hot Water will cool them, by giving vent to what offends.

And the plentiful drinking of Water is commended in the Scurvey, whether hot or cold, by Dr. *Pitcairn*, to dissolve the Scorbutick Salts, and carry them out by Urine, *whether they are Acids or Alkalies*; and myself having formerly been extremely troubled with the *Scurvey*, which often made me faint and weak, and my Pulse so low as scarcely to be felt, I found at last that the Pulse would infallibly rise upon drinking a Pint or more of cold Water, *and in a little time I should again become brisk and strong*: For I have often found, that upon a Disorder of the Stomach, the Strength of the bodily Members soon would fail, *and as easily be recovered when the Disorder of the Stomach was removed*; and, by long Experience, I have found that nothing conduceth so much to bodily Strength as a Stomach in right Order, which requires Temperance and cooling Drink, and cooling Diet to bring it into Order.

To what hath been already said, I will add an Account, taken from a credible Person, of a Man in the Parish of *Shoreditch*, who was desperately ill of an *Asthma*, or *Shortness of Breath*, and deep *Consumption*, for which he had tried many Remedies to no purpose. At length he was advised by a Physician, being poor, to drink no other Drink but Water, and eat no other Food but Water-gruel, without Salt or Sugar; which Course of Diet he continued for three Months, finding himself at first to be somewhat better, and at the three Months end he was perfectly cured; but, for Security sake, he continued in that Diet a Month longer, and grew strong and fat upon it. But his Diet he had no mind to, till he was thoroughly hungry, and then he eat with pleasure; in which perhaps consisted the best part of his Cure, it being an Advantage to Health never to eat till Hunger calls for Food.

And I remember a young Woman, a Burnisher of Silver, who had a desperate Cough, for which she had taken many things of an Apothecary to no purpose; at length the Journeyman told her, his Master said, he could do no more: but, said the Fellow, I would advise you every Morning to wash behind your Ears, and
upon

upon your Temples, and on the Mould of your Head with cold Water ; which she told me she did, and was perfectly cured of her Cough by that Means.

There are divers other Cases wherein the Use of Water hath done much good. I knew an ancient Practiser in Physick, who told me, That in many *Difficulties of making water*, he had advised the Party to put his Yard into Water as hot as he could endure it, *which, in a Minute, did cause him to make water* ; and that Women have had the same Benefit by sitting over hot Water. And he often had advised them *who were costive, and went to Stool with great Difficulty*, to set over a Pot with hot Water in it ; which soon was attended with an easy Digestion, the Body drawing up the Vapour, which did provoke Expulsion without much straining to produce a Stool.

And it hath been observed, that *froward Children have been made much more quiet*, by washing their lower Parts every Morning with Water, to wash off the Salts of their Urine, which usually stick in the Pores of the Skin, and are fretful and uneasy, *and nothing cures their Soreness about those Parts like it*. Nor is there any thing more effectual to cure

Men, who are gauged with Riding, than to wash themselves well, when they go to bed, with cold Water; and washing the bare Breast every Morning with cold Water, will make those hardy who before were apt at every turn to take Cold.

In short, Water, when rightly made use of, doth appear, from the Accounts before-mentioned, very effectual to prevent and cure many Diseases, but more especially the inward Use thereof: for to use the words of the ingenious Dr. Curtis, in his *Essay for the Preservation and Recovery of Health*; The habitual Use of Water for common Drink preserves the native Ferment of the Stomach in due Order, keeps the Blood temperate, and helps to spin out the Thread of Life to the longest Extent of Nature; it makes the Rest at Night more quiet and refreshing, the Reason and Understanding more clear, the Passions less disorderly; and, in case of eating too much, a large Draught of cold Water vastly exceeds any other Cordial to cause Digestion; Water being not so cold and lifeless, he saith, as many do imagine. Besides which Commendation of it by this Doctor, 'tis certainly a Drink that will not ferment in the Stomach, nor turn sour, as Wine and strong Malt-Drinks will do, to the hindering

hindering of a good Digestion, *which all Acidity in the Stomach certainly doth, when it abounds there*; and is best corrected by weakening or making it less sour, by drinking good Store of Water, *as the Experience of above forty Years Practice hath assured myself and many others.* For tho' Water is counted a contemptible Drink, yet by beginning to make use of it at about thirty years of Age, *before which I was often out of Order,* and continuing the Use of it ever since, drinking very little Wine or strong Drink, *I have attained to the Age of seventy-four Years*; when Thousands, in the mean time, who delighted only in drinking strong Beer, Wine, and Brandy, have not lived half so long: which maketh good that Saying in the Scriptures, *That Wine is a Mocker, and strong Drink is Raging, and he who is deceived thereby is not wise*; Prov. 20. 1. since it no ways contributes to long Life; for 'tis certain that Thousands in the World live as long who drink no strong Drink, *as any Drinkers of it do.* Some indeed, from an extraordinary Strength of Nature, have been hard Drinkers, *and yet die old*; but for one who does this, perhaps an hundred are destroyed by it before they come to half the time of Life; and generally we shall find that very strong and healthy

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Constitutions, at the long Run, are ruined by Riot and Excess, there being no certain Safety in any way of Living *but that of Temperance and Moderation*. Nature in some may, a long time, withstand the Abuses offered to it, *but at last it will yield to its Enemies*; and those who live the longest in an intemperate Course, might, from the Strength of their Constitution, *have lived much longer, had they eat less, and used themselves to drink more Water*; which Drink, as it is most friendly, and longest will preserve the Life of a strong Constitution, *so 'tis absolutely necessary for those that are weak and sickly*, and are naturally subject to the Gout, the Stone, Shortness of Breath, Wind, Ill-Digestion, and such like.

But the chief Use of Water in preserving of Health, is by using of it as a *Vomit*, as before was shewn, which is the most infallible Remedy that ever was found out for any Stomach-Sickness, or Pain there; for to vomit with warm Water will effectually remove it, and be a means to prevent great Fits of Sickness, and preserve the Lives of many Thousands to Old Age, *by cleansing the Stomach from that tough, slimy, or corrupt Matter that offends, and is the Cause of all mortal Diseases*; especially of an *Apo-plexy*,

plexy, which tho' counted a Disease of the Head, yet *bath its Original from a foul Stomach*, which nothing doth so effectually cleanse as Vomits : according to that of Dr. *Curtis*, who saith, That Vomiting, with warm Water, or *Carduus* Tea, is very beneficial to bring up that which fluctuates in the Stomach, and that tough, ropy Phlegm which sticks fast to the Wrinkles and Folds of that Bowel, *and which Purges do often pass over, and cannot remove.* Which way of Vomiting, with warm Water, is ten times more easy and pleasant than that which is effected by the Use of a nauseous Tea made of *Carduus*, which Physicians do sometimes advise ; and 'tis also such as can do no harm by Violence, as other Vomits made from Antimony sometimes do, since you may stop when you please. 19.

And here it may not be amiss to relate what I some Years ago discovered, in order to Mens freeing themselves from Sickness that may happen after eating ; for being invited to dine at a certain Table, where there were several good Dishes of Meat, I was over-persuaded to eat more than I should do, and in a little time after Dinner found myself begin to be sick. I went out, and in a private Place attempted to vomit, by tickling my Throat with my
Finger,

Finger, but could not vomit as I designed to do ; only by this means I raised up two or three mouthfuls of thick tough Phlegm, upon which *I found my self better, and my sick Qualm went off.* I took the Hint it gave me, and have done the same several times since, and find that the getting up the Phlegm, which like Yest upon Beer works up to the Mouth of the Stomach, a Man may free himself from some kinds of Sicknefs after eating. And I remember it is an Advice given by one *Vaughan*, in a Book long since printed, intituled, *Directions for Health*, for Men who feed high, *to put their Finger in their Throat when they rise in the Morning, to make themselves puke,* or avoid the Phlegm which can be raised, as an excellent way to preserve Health ; and 'tis said also to be an absolute Preservative from the *Gout*. 17.

I will conclude with this Note, That in such Distempers *where Water-drinking will be available for a Cure*, the same must not be drank sparingly, but plentifully, *as to ease the Gripings in a Looseness or Flux :* for if but a Pint of Water should be drank, Ease would hardly succeed ; but drinking in about an hour's time *a Quart or three Pints*, the Sharpness and evil Quality of the Humour offending will

will be so far diluted or weakened, that immediate Ease will follow. If the Season be too cold to drink cold Water, you may warm it a little upon the Fire, or put a hot Toast of Bread into every Pint, and the same is true *in Fevers, or in Pains from Gravel or the Cholick*; for a small Quantity will not be effectual in these Cases: *which ought carefully to be noted*, for in a Fever a little Water will rather increase the Burning, which large Draughts, often drank, will soon take off. *Rest, Fasting, and drinking much Water*, after a Vomit or two, is a Course that never yet hath failed to cure Fevers, by clearing the Stomach of that sordid Filthiness which causeth the Distemper; for a happy Issue will certainly follow such a Course, if the Fever is simple, and not complicated with other Distempers, which will resist all Remedies: and in many Cases nothing can prevent Mortality, *as is evident by the Death of the best Physicians as well as others, and by the Death of many whom before they were consulted with for a Cure.*

I will add to what hath been said, one Experiment more, that is very material: And that is, being very *hypochondriacal*, and of a *melancholy Temper*, I have often been strangely dejected in Mind when

under Grief for some Misfortunes, which sometimes hath been so great, *as to threaten Danger to Life*; in which Fits of Grief I always found the Parts within my Breast uneasy, and sometimes they have continued long: but now I have found a good Remedy, *for upon drinking a Pint of cold Water, I find ease in two or three Minutes, so that no Grief seems to afflict.* Which Experience I discover for the sake of others in the same Circumstances, being verily persuaded that the Stomach sympathizeth with the Mind, and this becomes the Cause of that uneasy Sensation and Pain perceived there; for which, cold Water I have found to be the best Remedy in myself, and I believe others may find the same Benefit, who will make use thereof upon the like Occasion.

There is also another Experiment that I have often seen of good effect; and that is, that if Persons subject to what is called *Vapours*, or that are afflicted with Fits, commonly call'd *The Fits of the Mother*, will but drink Water when they find their Fits approach, it will immediately yield Relief. There is in this case a mealy Julep prescribed by Dr. Bates, which is to take *a Spoonful of fine Wheat-Flower, an Ounce of fine Sugar, and a Pint of Water, brew them together, and*
drink

drink it off : This is pleasanter than Water alone ; but Water of itself will be as effectual, or rather better.

Some perhaps may desire to know how to distinguish good from bad Water ; and the way to do this, *is by the Taste and Scent* : for if it have no Taste nor Smell, being purely fresh, not salt, nor sweetish, nor ill-scented, 'tis good, *provided it be pure and clear* ; of which kind is the common Water used in *London*, when well settled, or in fair Weather. As for those who are curious, and will be at the Charge, they may procure the best Water for Drink by *Distillation*, either in an Alembick, or in a cold Still used in drawing any cold Water from Herbs ; *for no earthy or metallick Substance, nor any kind of Salt will rise in Distillation* : so that the Water so distilled will be pure and admirable to drink when cold, *and will keep as long from stinking as any of the cold distilled Water in the Apothecaries Shops* ; according to what Dr. Quincy hath affirmed about it in his *Dispensatory*.

Those who have not the Convenience of Distillation, may boil it a little as they do for *Tea* ; for then, when kept a while after it is cold, it will become more fine,

by suffering any Mixture contained in it to settle to the bottom of the Vessel wherein it is contained, and that will render it still more pure.

Since the collecting together the fore-mentioned Accounts, I have met with a Book written by Dr. *Boerhaave*, the present Professor of Physick at *Leyden* in *Holland*, who affirms, that drinking Water made very warm is a good Remedy to pacify griping Pains in the Stomach; and that 'tis proper to bathe Wounds in the Face with it, when they come to be just healed, so that the Place be kept continually wet, which I conceive is best done by applying often linnen Cloths wet; and binding them on till they begin to be dry, will prevent Scars: And he saith, that warm Water is better to attenuate or thin the Blood than cold Water.

There is also published a Book of Experiments made with Water, by Dr. *Hancock*, a Divine, call'd *Febrifugum Magnum*; wherein he saith, that drinking a Pint or a Quart of cold Water in Bed, will raise a copious Sweat, and cure all burning Fevers, which at once taking hath done the business: it will raise a Sweat without much more Covering than ordinary. And he further affirms, that
the

the same taken *at the beginning of the cold Fit of an Ague, and sweating upon it*, at two or three times taking will cure that Distemper. A large Quantity of hot Water, I know, hath been advised to take off the cold Fit, but the Party was not order'd to sweat, as here is done with cold Water.

And he saith he hath had long Experience of curing *common Colds* with cold Water ; and this is done by drinking a large Draught of Water at going to bed, another in the Night, and another in the Morning : which, he saith, will soon thicken and sweeten, and digest that thin sharp Rheum, that provokes Coughing to no purpose : *for the Rheum, when thin, is hard to be brought up*, but when thickened, it will come up easily, and the Cough will soon go off. Which agrees with what I before affirmed from my own long Experience.

He also affirms from his own Experience, that using sometimes to take a Walk of eight or ten Miles in a Morning, he found that *Water gave twice as good Breath for that purpose as Wine or Ale* ; and if it would do this for a Man who had no *Asthma*, he doubts not but it would do the same in one troubled with
one.

one. And he also affirms Water to be the best Remedy *for a Surfeit*, to the truth of which I can testify by long Experience also.

He also affirms, that drinking cold Water hath been found good in *Rheumatisms*, and that to one so afflicted he had advised to drink it as he lay in his Bed, and it took off the Fit ; but if hot Water attenuates the Blood most, as *Boerhaave* affirms, 'tis then best to drink of it warm daily to a good quantity : for, as *Pitcairn* observes, *'tis then the best Dissolver of all kinds of Salts in the Body*, which it will carry off in the Urine, if drank plentifully ; for by Urine Salts are evacuated, as is evident by the Taste.

And it is his Opinion, from the long Experience he hath had of the Effect of Water in keeping the Stomach in order, and making it tight and strong to perform its Operations, and digest all Humours, that *it will cure the Gout in the Stomach* ; and perhaps it may do it better than Wine, *which I have known to fail*. And I do not wonder that the same Liquor which is the principal Cause of the Gout in other Parts, should not be a help in that Part, but rather kill, *as it often is found to do*.

In short, he affirms, and that with great reason, *that Sweating in Fevers by drinking cold Water, is more natural than to do it with hot Sudorificks*, which often do harm *in the beginning of Fevers*, except good store of cooling moistening Liquors are drank with them, *they being more apt to inflame, than cool and quench Heat in the Body*; and for that reason it hath not been often advised by Physicians, *because they were ignorant of this cold way of Sweating to cure Fevers.*

Which Cure, he said, did succeed in one who was his Relation, *at the fifth Day after his falling sick*; to whom he gave a Dose of Water after he was in bed, and he sweated profusely for 24 Hours, and thereby was cured. *Half a Pint, he saith, is enough for a grown Child: a Pint to a Man or Woman, tho' if they drink a Quart, it will be better.* In Scarlet-Fevers, Small-Pox, Measles, tho' the Water will not cause Sweat, yet it will so quell and keep under the Fever, that the Eruptions will come out more kindly, which is a Confirmation of what before was said about Dr. Betts's prescribing two Quarts of Water when the Small-Pox did not come out kindly.

And

And he sets down an Account of the *Author of the Free-Thinker*, concerning a Woman, *who in the last great Plague* fell ill of that Distemper, who got her Husband to fetch her a Pitcher of Water from *Lamb's-Conduit*; she drank plentifully of it, but did not avoid the Cold, and so did not sweat, *however she was cured*. And he gives us another Relation of an *Englishman* formerly Resident at *Morocco*, that fell ill of the Plague at that Place, and getting Water to drink, fell into a violent Sweat, and recover'd : from whence he concludes that Water is good in the Plague; agreeable to what is related in *Sir John Floyer's* Book of Cold Baths, wherein it is said, That few were sick of the Plague who lived over the Water upon *London-Bridge*, the Coolness of the Air being supposed to contribute to their Health who inhabited on the Water in that manner, their Blood being cooler than others.

I will here add to what the Doctor hath said concerning the Cure of Fevers, That if the Fever be accompanied in the beginning *with any Illness at the Stomach, nauseating or vomiting*, it will be the surest and safest Practice to clear the Stomach first, by vomiting with warm Water,

ter, as before hath been prescribed; for I cannot believe it possible for the Stomach to be cleared from foul Humours by sweating: *it may do, if no great sense of Disorder is perceived there*, but it will certainly be safest to cleanse the Stomach first, which is the Place where all Diseases are originally begun; for then sweating with cold Water afterwards may turn to good account. Indeed I have not made any trial of it since the Doctor's Book was published, but I have a very good opinion of his Accounts therein given concerning the Benefit of Water, *having had so much Experience thereof in my own Practice for above forty Years*; for so long it is since I first began to collect those Accounts, and make those Experiments, which are herein made publick for the Benefit of all. +

And thus, for the common Good of Mankind of all Ranks and Degrees, I have gathered together all the Accounts I have observed in *Physick-Books* relating to the *Use of common Water in preventing and curing Diseases*; to which I have added some Experiments of my own, which by numerous Trials I can warrant as sure and certain, *especially that of curing any Sickness in the Stomach upon the Spot, by vomiting with warm Water*: which is an Experiment, that, if put into common ++


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Practice,

Practice, would prevent many thousand Fits of Sicknefs in a year among Mankind, and a great number of untimely Deaths; for it takes away the Cause of all Stomach-Sicknefs, which is the Root of, or first Beginning of most of the Evils that afflict the Body.

I shall conclude all with this Advertifement, That if this finds a kind Acceptance, the Author intends to publish a Collection he hath made *out of the best Writings relating to Physick*, of fuch Receipts as are moft commended in all Diftempers, and made up of the feweft Ingredients, and eafieft to be had, all reduced under their proper Heads; which, I doubt not, will prove very ufeful on many accounts, beyond any Collection of that nature. The Collection was begun above forty Years ago for my own ufe, *without any design originally to make them publick*; but fince, I am perfuaded to let others partake of the Benefit of my Labour, if I can do it with the Proſpect of any fuitable Encouragement, from the kind Reception this may meet with among thoſe who deſire Health, which is beſt attained to by the moſt uncompounded Remedies in times of Sicknefs.



*Some RULES for pre-
serving Health by Diet,
collected from Physical
Authors.*

 N a little Treatise, entitled, *Kitchin-Physick*, written by Dr. Cook, the Author declares, *he can hardly be told of any Disease which he cannot relieve or cure by a proper Diet, p. 39.* And in the same Book we find his Opinion to be this, That all tender sickly People, and all aged and decrepid Persons, *ought to eat often, and but a little at a time*, because weak and wasted Bodies are to be restored by little and little ; and by moist and liquid Food also, rather than by solid, *because moist and liquid Diet does nourish soonest, and digest easiest.*

Those, he saith, that eat much, and get little Strength by eating, shew, that they have used themselves to too full a Diet; *and the more you cram such Bodies, the less they thrive by it, but rather grow worse and worse*: because by much feeding you do but add to the bad Humours wherewith the Body is already filled, which should rather be wasted by purging, and using a spare Diet.

And a spare Diet he describes to be this, *That we never eat at once till the Appetite is fully satisfied, and never to eat till we have an Appetite*; and Men never have a true Appetite till they can eat any ordinary Food, or that a Piece of Bread will please the Palate: And he adviseth *to keep constantly to a plain Diet*; for those, he says, enjoy most Health, and live longest, *that avoid Curiosity and Variety of Meats and Drinks*, which only serve to entice to Gluttony, and so work our Ruin,

Another saith, that the less Food the sick Person eats, the sooner he will recover; for 'tis a true Saying, *The more you fill foul Bodies, the more you hurt them*. The Stomach being the Place where Diseases begin, when that Part therefore

therefore is weak, and out of order, and cannot make a good Digestion, raw or crude Humours must needs be bred, and bad Humours cannot produce good Blood.

All Men do find by Experience, that in the Morning before they have eaten, they are light and pleasantly easy in their Bodies; but after they have indulged their Appetites with Plenty of Food, they find themselves heavy and dull, and often sleepy: which sufficiently shews *that those full Meals are prejudicial to the Welfare of the Body*; for a moderate Meal would have continued the Ease and Lightsomness they before found in themselves, and would have refreshed any Faintness that Emptiness might occasion. And he certainly, who useth the most simple Meats and Drinks, avoideth the Snare of provoking his Appetite beyond the Necessities of Nature; whereas Variety enticeth to a fresh Desire of every Dainty, till at last the Stomach is gorged, and made incapable of performing a good Digestion; and this produceth those Crudities, which are the Cause of all Diseases.

'Tis generally observed, that the most unhealthy among the Gentry are those who feed high upon the most delicious Dainties, and drink nothing but the strongest
and

and most spirituous Liquors; whereas the Poor, who want this delicate Fare, are seldom sick, except they have such unsatiabable Appetites as to eat too much, which a Man may do of the plainest Diet, *whose Belly is his God.*

Dr. Pratt adviseth to sup sparingly; for to sup sparingly, he saith, is most healthful, *because of the Experience of an infinite Number of Persons who have received the greatest Benefit from light Suppers.* For the Stomach being not overburdened, the Sleep is more pleasant; and from sparing Suppers the breeding of those Humours are prevented, which cause *Defluxions, Rheumatisms, Gouts, Dropsies, Giddiness, and Corruption in the Mouth from the Scurvey*; and from light Suppers a Freedom from Sicknes and Reaching in the Morning is obtained, and Concoction is made perfect, which prevents Obstructions.

Another saith, It is well known, *that many Indispositions are cured by Fasting, or a very spare Diet*; for what is taken into the Stomach being no more than can be well digested, the chylous Juice, so prepared, is conveyed into the Lactcal Vessels, and from thence into the Blood: so that Nature being duly supplied with well-

well-prepared Nourishment, the corrupted Blood will get free from that Corruption in time, by throwing it out, through the Pores of the Skin, in Perspiration, and supply itself with the purer Juices; and in this way *Consumptions and Scurveys*, and other Chronical Distempers, will be overcome.

That Men in Health may prevent Diseases, 'twas advised, that one Meal should not be eaten, till the other, which was eaten before, was passed off clean out of the Stomach; *which never is done till the Appetite of Hunger is found to call for another Supply*: by means of which constant Observation, the Food will be converted into good Chyle, and from good Chyle, *which is a milky Substance*, good Blood will be bred, and from good Blood generous Spirits will be produced, *out of which a healthy Constitution will ensue*; but, on the contrary, too great a Quantity of Food being taken *for pleasure only*, which the Stomach cannot well digest, the Chyle will be raw and corrupt, which will foul the Blood, and render the Body disorderly and unhealthful.

Others say, that Abstinence and Sobriety free from most Diseases, especially *Catarrhs, Coughs, Whoesings, Giddiness, Pain in the Head and Stomach, sudden Death*,

Death, Lethargies, Gout, and Sciatica, an ill Digestion being the Cause of all these ; it also prevents *Pain in the Spleen, Stone, and Gravel, and a dry Itch* ; it makes the Body vigorous and nimble, maintains the five Senses in a good State, preserveth the Memory, quickens the Wit, and quencheth all undue Lust in Mankind.

Two Meals a day is sufficient for all Persons after fifty Years of Age, and all weak People ; for the omitting of Suppers, does always conduce much to the Health of the Weak and Aged : since if no Supper be eaten, the Stomach will soon free itself from all tough slimy Humours wherewith it is flabbered over on the Inside, and thereby the Appetite will be renewed, and Digestion made more strong and vigorous. Moreover, all that are troubled with *Sweating in the Night, any ill Taste in their Mouths, belching, and troublesome Dreams*, must avoid Suppers ; for in Sleep the Fibres of the Stomach relax, and are not able to contract themselves so strongly, as when awake, to embrace the Food, and by Trituration reduce it into a Pap fit to pass out into the other Bowels, called *the Guts*, out of which the Nourishment is sent to other Parts.

'Twas said by Dr. *Curtis*, that though those, who use a spare Diet, cannot well bear long Labour; yet *such People, when their Exercise is suitable to their Strength, do live longer than those of a robust Constitution, that think large feeding adds Strength*; especially such as being strong, use no Exercise proportionable to it, to consume the Superfluities which a full Feeding doth occasion: so that the only way for those to live long, who have much Wealth, and need not labour for a Livelihood, is to live temperately; and this Temperance doth consist in not letting the common Custom of Meals invite you to eat, *except your Appetite concur with those Times*. We must not indulge the Cravings of a depraved Appetite, *as those do who eat to please their Fancy, and not the Necessities of Nature*; and when we do eat, we must not think that the more plentifully we eat, we shall be more strengthened, for it will not prove so: *a little well digested will make the Body stronger*, than the being glutted with Superfluity, most of which will be turned into a corrupt Juice, and must be cast out by Physick, or else Sickness will ensue.

It is the Opinion of *learned Men*, that the early Distemper of the Bodies of Children, called *the Rickets*, proceeds from the Fault of their Mothers, *in making them Gluttons from their Cradles*, gorging them with Food till they loath it, out of a mistaken Opinion, *that this is the way to make them thrive and grow strong*; which Excess is not only the Cause of this Disease, but of the immature Death of many; and in others it lays the Foundation of many Distempers, which afflict them afterwards who live to Years of Maturity; and as they gorge them with Food, so they vainly think to cherish them with strong Drink, *than which nothing can be more pernicious to the Health of Children*, whose Diet should be little and often, and their Drink cooling: As it also should be when they arrive at the time of *becoming Children again in Old Age*; that is, in an helpless State, which should be prevented as much as can be, *by a cooling, moistening Diet, in opposition to the hot, and dry, and withered State of their second Childhood*: for 'tis Heat and Dryness that are the Cause of most of their Miseries, and the wasting of the Substance that fills the Parts with Moisture, and keeps the Body plump and smooth.

It was the Opinion of Dr. Pitt, who was formerly Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, that Fasting, Rest, and drinking Water, would cure most Diseases; and there seemeth to be a great deal of Reason in what he asserted. For Fasting will give time to the Stomach to unload itself of the Cause of Distempers, the Cause of all Diseases being begun in that Bowel only; to which cleansing, the drinking of Water plentifully will much contribute, which also will keep the Action of the Stomach upon the Hinges, by filling of it when empty, at which time there will be need of Rest, for thereby the Body will be less fit for Business: tho the mere drinking of Water, which affords Nourishment sufficient for the Growth and Support of all Vegetables, will, in some measure, supply the want of Food, as hath been shewn in the Example of two, who were supported a long time by nothing else. In short, the best way for a sick Man to recover, is to eat little or no Food till he finds an Appetite, according to that Saying,

*Spare Diet will the most Diseases cure,
If a due Time you can the same endure.*

And fasting from Food may be continued long enough to be a Remedy for many Diseases, with the assistance of common Water ; by the drinking of which hot, in a due Quantity, without a total Fasting, *two Persons, I am informed, were recovered out of Consumptions, by which they were extremely weakened, and that in about six Weeks time ; as was another by drinking Milk and Whey, equal Parts, made blood-hot, without using any other Diet, which is thought to be far more effectual than Asses Milk.*

But besides a spare Diet, good cool dry Air is also very helpful to preserve Men in Health, who are not sick, for it mixes with the Blood, and without it the Motion of the Blood and Spirits can never be preserved, as appears by *Diving-Vessels*, in which Men cannot live when the Air therein is made hot by their own Body and Breath : And is proved also by an Experiment of Dr. *Croone's*, who stifled a Chicken, till it seem'd quite dead ; *and yet by blowing cool Air into the Lungs, with a small Pair of Bellows, it revived.* Hence it appears, that the common Custom of managing sick People is very pernicious, and so far from helping them to recover, that 'tis sufficient *to make a healthy Person sick ; for were a Person, who*
was

was not sick, confined for three or four Weeks in a Room, made hot like a Stove, and confined to his Bed, with the Curtains drawn, and all the Windows close shut, and made unpleasant with the nauseous Fumes of Physick, *which will almost make a fresh Man sick when he just enters into it*; we can never think that this is the way to recover one that really is sick, and wants the fresh Air to cherish his Blood; *a fresh open Air being one principal means to strengthen the Body, make a good Appetite and Digestion, and render the Spirits brisk and lively*: which Advantage should be allowed to all but *Childbed Women*, and those who are afflicted with the *Small-Pox*; for the fresh Air can be prejudicial to no other, whose Bodies are clothed warm, either in Bed, or sitting in a Chair.

Some Years since a Neighbour became very feverish, and his Wife persuaded him to go to Bed; and hearing of it soon after, I gave him a Visit, where I found the Windows close shut, the Curtains of the Bed drawn, and the Room very hot, *for it was in July*: he was burning hot, *and complained for want of Breath*. I drew open the Curtains, covered him warm, and then opened the Windows, and

and the Wind blew into the Room ; upon which he soon told me, his Shortness of Breath had left him. *I persuaded him to drink some Water*, which he found did much refresh him ; and after I had taken my Leave of him, he called for more Water : And while he had the Cup in his Hand, *an Apothecary came in*, whom his Wife had sent for, who, finding him about to drink the Water, told him, if he did it he was a dead Man ; but instead of forbearing, he drank it up in his Presence : Upon which the other took his Leave, and told him, he would say no more to him. However, before Night, the Person got up, went Abroad, and was cured of his Fever ; which is one Instance, *among many others that might be given*, of the Benefit of fresh Air to a Person who is kept warm in his Bed ; for thereby his Body was cooled inwardly, and his Breathing made more free, whereby the Air was drawn into his Lungs to refresh and comfort the Blood as it passed through them.

I shall only add, *that by keeping the Blood cool as well as clean*, is to be understood, not only Moderation in Diet, but to feed most on Food made of *Wheat, Barley, Oatmeal, Rice, and Apples*, as also on *Milk* ; which, joined with Oatmeal,

meal, is the chief Food of those lusty and strong Men the *Highlanders of Scotland*, who abound in Children, as Dr. *Cheyne* tells us in his *Treatise of the Gout*, p. 108.

Edit. 4. which demonstrates Milk to be a most strengthening Food, and such as keeps the Blood in due Order; so that therewith Men may subsist, tho' they abstain from *Beef, Pork, and Venison*, and all other Meats hard to digest, and drink Water *as the Highlanders do*: Of the Efficacy of which cooling *Milk Diet*, the said Dr. *Cheyne* gives a notable Instance in a Friend of his, p. 103. who had long been afflicted with the *Falling Evil*; for, by slow Observation, he found, the lighter his Meals were, the lighter were his Fits. At last he cast off all Liquids *but Water*, and found his Fits weaker, and the Intervals longer; and finding his Disease mend, *as its Fuel was withdrawn*, he took to Vegetable Food and Water only, *which put an intire Period to his Fits without any Relapse*: but finding that Food windy, he took to Milk, of which he eat a Pint for Breakfast, a Quart at Dinner, and a Pint for Supper, *without Fish, Flesh, Bread, or any strong or spirituous Liquor*, or any Drink but Water, with which he lived afterwards for fourteen Years, *without the least Interruption in his Health, Strength, or Vigour*,

Vigour, but died afterwards of a *Pleurisy*. Which is a Confirmation of what *Dr. Cook* did affirm, of the Possibility of curing Diseases by Diet only that is temperate and cooling.

F I N I S.

